

MARCH MEETING

Ice Caves-Winter in the Driftless

Presenter: Chuck Hatfield

*Field Guide and Instructor,
Kickapoo Valley Reserve*

When: Saturday, March 14

Where: Viterbo School of
Nursing, Room 195

Cost: \$12

Menu: Egg bake with shredded potatoes, mushrooms, red & green peppers and spinach; Sausage Patties; MYO Yogurt Parfaits with vanilla yogurt, sliced strawberries, blueberries and granola; Kringle Pastry; Assorted bakery items (including GF muffins); Orange juice, Coffee and Tea

Registration: 9:30 AM

Breakfast: 10:00 AM

Program: 10:30 AM

Members and guests are welcome to attend the brunch or just come for the program. For late reservations or cancellations, please call Robert Richardson at 788-0595 by end of day, Mon. March 9.

There is an alternative to driving to Northern Wisconsin to see the Apostle Island ice caves! The March AAUW meeting will feature a presentation by Chuck Hatfield, from the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, on "Ice Caves-Winter in the Driftless."

Mr. Hatfield is a retired teacher from the Green Bay School District. He acts as a tour guide and teacher at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, located between La Farge and Ontario in southwestern Wisconsin, where his class on the formation of the ice caves is very popular.



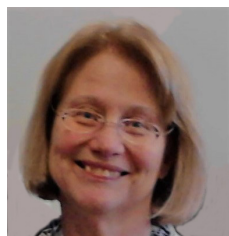
Chuck Hatfield

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2020



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A Busy Month Ahead

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Special Guests at Our March Meeting

As has been our tradition each March we are sharing with the AAUW-Winona Branch. This year it's their turn to come to La Crosse. Several of their members will be in attendance at our March branch meeting. Please welcome them!

Nominations Needed

It's that time of the year again. We will be voting and installing officers at our April annual business meeting. Therefore, nominations are needed for all positions, but especially for the following elected board officers: Vice President-President Elect, Vice President-Finance, and Vice President-Program. These are all two-year terms. Margaret Wood will be going off the board as VP-Program but Cristina Kovacs will be staying on for another year to complete her term. Appointed board officers are needed in the areas of publicity/communications and fundraising. Please nominate yourself or other



members for any of these positions. To make a nomination or to obtain more information about the responsibilities of these positions please contact a Nominating Committee member: Carol Robertson, Michele Strange, or me.

International Women's Day

Lois Gilbert and her committee have once again been busy preparing another fabulous International Women's Day (IWD) Celebration, set for Sunday, March 8 at 1:00 pm in the Bluffs Ballroom of the UWL Student Union. Four interesting panelists will be featured (from

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, March 9, 2020
6:30 pm**

Goodwill Retail Store and Training Center, 3954 Mormon Coulee Rd.
(corner of Losey and Mormon Coulee)
Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

Contact Jan at: 787-5946 or
jperiksen@viterbo.edu
to place items on the agenda.

A Busy Month Ahead... (continued from page 1)

Kosovo, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Poland) and several area organizations will sponsor booths. AAUW-La Crosse is hosting "Free the Girls," a bra collection to help sex trafficking victims in El Salvador, Mozambique, and Costa Rica. More information about IWD is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope you can attend.

NCCWSL Scholarship Winners

I'm pleased to announce that our branch is sending two students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this year. NCCWSL, hosted by AAUW, will be held May 27-30 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The two students are Maddie Adickes and Dana Nielsen. Maddie is a senior at Viterbo University majoring in nursing and minoring in servant leadership. Dana is a senior at UWL with a double major in public administration and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Both students have been very active in leadership roles at their universities.



Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBER - Addendum

Diane Mross was welcomed as a member in the February CURRENT. Thanks to Pam Thiel for directing Diane to the Membership VP. Diane is a cousin of one of the speakers at the state convention in April so joined our branch in order to attend.

Dues

With the coming of spring dues payment of new members will be applied to the 2020/21 fiscal year which begins July 1st. They will also be part of the membership for the rest of this year.

NEW CONTACT INFO

Alice Engelhard Gassere
N 2036 Orchard Valley Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601.
Phone 608-519-1650.
Email: egassere3@gmail.com

New Webminder

Barb Fischer has agreed to be our branch website minder! Please send anything you'd like posted on the website to her at: fischerba@live.com.

Convention Volunteers Needed!

by Silvana Richardson,
Convention volunteer coordinator

We in La Crosse are privileged to host this year's AAUW State Convention. It will be held on Friday, April 17 - Saturday, April 18th at the Radisson Hotel in downtown La Crosse. We are expecting a good number of members from across the state to attend as the convention agenda is an exciting one!

At our February meeting, I called for volunteers to assist with registration, break out sessions and the silent auction. Thanks to those who answered the call at that time! There are still a few spots that need to be filled. If you have time on Friday afternoon or evening or anytime on Saturday to assist, please contact me by phone (608) 788-0595 or email (sfrichardson@viterbo.edu). Also, baked goods are needed for the Saturday evening dessert reception. If you can bake a dessert that can be eaten by hand (cookie, candy or bar), let me know. These can be delivered to the registration table anytime on Friday.

Thanks for your generous sharing of your time and talents!

Convention Planning Meeting

by Jan Eriksen, Convention Chair

All branch members are welcome to attend the last 2020 AAUW-WI Convention Planning Committee Meeting, to be held at our conference hotel, the Radisson in downtown La Crosse, on Wednesday, March 18. It will be an opportunity for the committee to take a last look at the facilities and envision the flow of activities and set up of the space. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am and, while committee meetings usually last until 3:00 pm, this one will probably end earlier. If you can join us please let me know so that I can plan for enough refreshments.

Contact Jan at: 787-5946 or
jperiksen@viterbo.edu

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

See below for meeting info

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

HEARTH & HOME

Hearth & Home study group meets monthly to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings.

When: Wednesday, March 18, 4:00 p.m.

Program: Tour of Coulee Region Humane Society
911 Critter Court, Onalaska



Mae is very excited to be able to give us this approximately 45 minute tour. In addition to her presentation we will see animals available for adoption as well as some wildlife. There is a \$2.00 charge per person. At this time

they are pretty well stocked with blankets, sheets, food and toys but they very much need financial support for medical bills for cats and also love fleece to use for their dog beds. However, they are willing to accept donations of any kind that we might like to give (optional of course).

Following the tour we will have dinner at Outback Steakhouse.

Please RSVP to Bev Bodine at 781-3849 or bevbodine@yahoo.com

If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

AAUW IN ACTION

AAUW in Action (AIA) is a study group that serves as a springboard for community service activities for our branch that promote AAUW's mission.

If you are interested in joining us for a meeting, or just knowing what we're planning, please ask to be on our email list by sending an email to Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

Next meeting: Thursday, Mar. 26, Myrick Park Center, 2:00pm

International Women's Day Panel, Sunday, March 8, 1:00 pm in the Bluffs Room of the UW-L student union.

At the International Women's Day celebration, AIA will be collecting new or gently used bras for the organization **Free The Girls**.

New this year: a photo booth for taking pictures with the #EachforEqual signs! (See page 5 for more info). We encourage you to post the pictures on your Facebook and Instagram feeds.

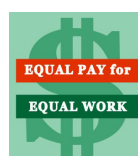


Pearl Street Books Window: Lois Gilbert, Karen Lange and Carol Robertson have created a window display around the theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote". We'll have a picture in next month's issue of *The Current* but be sure to check it out for yourself!

For the 6th year in a row, Lois Gilbert has researched and written wonderful **daily blurbs for the La Crosse Tribune** to celebrate March as Women's History Month. You can also find them on our branch Facebook and Instagram accounts, thanks to Sydney, our Social Media Intern.



At the general meeting on **March 14th**, we'll be again **collecting personal hygiene products for New Horizons**. You've been so generous in the past; there is always a great need for the items though. You can also drop off items at the New Horizon Office: 1233 Main St in La Crosse. For other items New Horizons needs, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/265742920170460/posts/2720403104704417/?d=n>



Our new Public Policy intern, Marissa Tatro, will be assisting Betty Kruck and Ann Brice with the annual **Equal Pay Day table** at the UWL Student Union on **Tuesday, March 31st**. Many of you have baked cookies for the table in the past and we'll be asking for that same help this year! Look for an email with details in the next couple of weeks.

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Chair

Women's Health Issues

In January of 2019, I wrote about AAUW's work to make sure women are allowed to maintain control of their bodies. A year later, a woman's right to make decisions for herself about her own body remains under attack. Under the current administration, the Supreme Court has shifted ideologically to the right, and many states are working quickly to enact laws that will make sure abortion remains illegal even if *Roe v. Wade* is upheld under a Democratic president.

Where do the Democrats vying for the Presidential nomination stand on women's reproductive health, specifically abortion? Pete Buttigieg, Michael Bloomberg, Bernie Sanders, Tom Steyer, and Elizabeth Warren all have stated that women should make their own decisions about abortion and none of them have stated support for any government limits on abortion. Warren states that she will push Congress to repeal restrictions on using federal funds for abortion and will also prevent states from passing laws that restrict abortions. Joe Biden and Amy Klobuchar specify limits on abortion in the third trimester. It is important to note that Biden supported a constitutional amendment in 1980 that would let states overturn *Roe*, and as recently as 2003, he voted to ban late-term abortion. Tom Steyer claims to support abortion rights but has made no statements regarding limits on abortion.

What about health care insurance? Bernie Sanders supports Medicare for All which guarantees no-cost coverage for a wide range of benefits. It would move the United States towards a single payer health care system, in which the government would use tax revenues to pay health care providers for all medical services. Elizabeth Warren originally had such a plan but rolled it back and revised it so that in three years the country would transition to a system in which the government would pay for all health care costs. Sanders and Warren also believe private insurance should go away completely.

Biden, Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Steyer, and Bloomberg support a public option for health care which means a government-run health plan would compete with private insurers. This would allow more people to buy into Medicare, the health care program for seniors. As of now, all seven candidates support the creation of a public



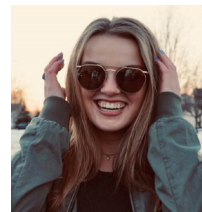
option to expand health care. People would be allowed to purchase additional health care regardless of their income. Buttigieg believes private insurance can stay in place for now, while Biden, Bloomberg, Klobuchar and Steyer believe it can stay in place indefinitely.

Finally, women are often the sole caretakers of newborns and family members with medical issues. The Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (FAMILY) would create a fund to guarantee employees up to 12 weeks of partial salary while caring for a newborn or family member with a serious illness. This act was introduced by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D–N.Y.) and Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D–Conn) in 2019 and would run parallel to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. The acts are similar but with FAMILY, employees receive a partial salary regardless of how long they were at their current jobs. Sanders and Steyer advocate for more than 12 weeks of FAMILY leave, while Biden, Bloomberg, Buttigieg and Warren advocate for 12 weeks.

The protection of women's reproductive rights has been a priority of AAUW since 1977. AAUW also continues to advocate for health care reform because women face a disproportional amount of health care insecurity. We can do our part to advocate for women's health care by staying informed on candidates' views on women's issues as this critical election nears.

<https://www.politico.com/2020-election/candidates-views-on-the-issues/health-care/abortion-contraception/>

Meet Our New Social Media Intern



Hello! My name is Sydney Pletan and I am a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse studying Organizational & Professional Communication with a minor in Business Administration and Leadership Development. I am the new Social Media Intern for AAUW and I am super excited to

start working with this organization.

Through this opportunity, I hope to gain experience in taking and posting photos to social media platforms and writing for a blog. I hope to assist in increasing the awareness for this nonprofit organization and educating myself and others about women's empowerment, health, and working towards equal pay. I am looking forward to the upcoming events that AAUW has organized and can not wait to become more involved!

FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report as of
February 21, 2020

Checking Account..... \$11,577.45

Scholarship Bridge..... \$757.00

New Horizons
Fundraiser

Tickets are on sale NOW for Victory Over Violence, presented by Gundersen Health System to benefit New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers.

Friday, March 20, 2020 at Drugan's Castle Mound in Holmen.

Tickets are only \$65 and include a delicious 3-entree buffet dinner, live music from "Me & Rosie B," a live and silent auction, a wine pull, and a raffle.

Your support is the reason New Horizons is able to provide free and confidential services and support to victims of abuse and help them transition to SURVIVORS. When you choose to spend this evening with us you become an important part of the safety net to help members of our community who are struggling due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

For tickets and details:
<http://www.nhagainstabuse.org/events/2020-victory-over-violence/>



Name Grant Nominations

by Michele Strange, Chair

Nominations for the 2020 Name Grant are open. Nominees can be any branch member who has made significant contributions and who has not previously received the Name Grant. The list of past honorees is in the back of the branch membership directory. The deadline is March 31, 2020. Please contact Michele Strange at mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu or (608) 781-6962 with names of nominees, along with information about why you feel the individual is deserving of the honor.

Women's History Month 2020

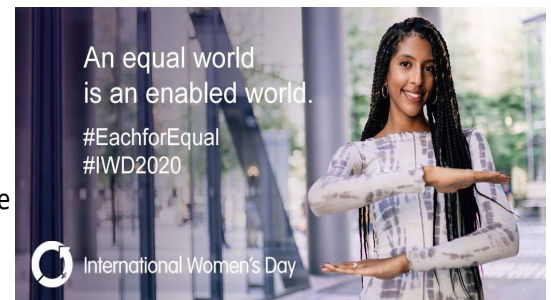


The 2020 theme "Valiant Women of the Vote" celebrates the women who have fought for woman's right to vote in the United States. In recognition of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, we honor women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20th and 21st century women who have continued the struggle (fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other more contemporary forms of voter suppression) to ensure voting rights for all. There are 13 honorees this year, 4 living and 9 deceased:

Maria Teresa Kumar (CEO, Voto Latino), Eleanor Holmes Norton (Civil Rights Leader, Congressperson, Lawyer and Organizer), Terry Ao Minnis (Senior Director of the Census and Voting Programs, Asian Americans Advancing Justice), Edith Mayo (Suffrage Historian, Women's History Movement Activist), Lucy Burns - July 28, 1879 – Dec. 22, 1966 (American Woman Suffrage Activist), Carrie Chapman Catt - Jan. 9, 1859 – Mar. 9, 1947 (American Woman Suffrage Activist), Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett - Mar. 28, 1861 - Dec. 10, 1929 (Suffragist, founder of the National Women's Equal Suffrage Association of Hawai'i), Ana Roqué de Duprey - Apr. 18, 1853 – 1933 (Suffragist and Co-founder of the University of Puerto Rico), Elizabeth Piper Ensley - 1847-1919 (Educator and African-American suffragist), Marie Foster - Oct. 24, 1917 – Sep. 6, 2003 (Civil Rights Leader), Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee - 1896-1966 (Suffragist, member of the Women's Political Equality League), Virginia Louisa Minor - Mar. 27, 1824 – Aug. 14, 1894 (American Woman Suffrage Activist) and Anna Howard Shaw - Feb. 14, 1847 – July 2, 1919 (American Woman Suffrage Activist). For complete stories on these amazing women, visit <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2020-honorees/>

International Women's Day 2020

International Women's Day 2020 campaign theme is #EachforEqual. An equal world is an enabled world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can actively choose to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, each one of us can help create a gender equal world. Let's all be #EachforEqual.





American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

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AAUW’s Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

For 130 years, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day: educational, social, economic, and political. Our commitment to our mission is reflected in all aspects of our work.

Newsletter Contact & Deadlines

Newsletter EditorErica Koonmen (aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)
WebminderBarb Fischer (fischerba@live.com)

Newsletter content submission deadline:
Please send all content for *The Current* to Erica by the 20th of the month.

Problems receiving the CURRENT? Let us know at:
aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com